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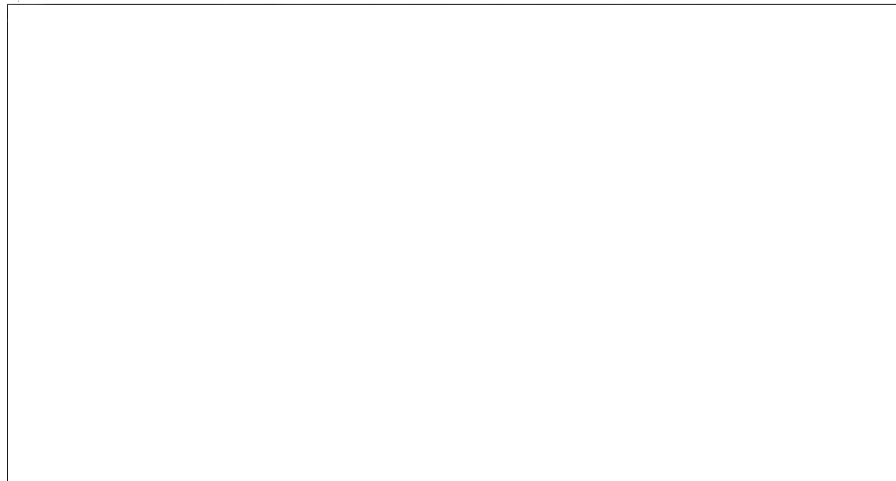
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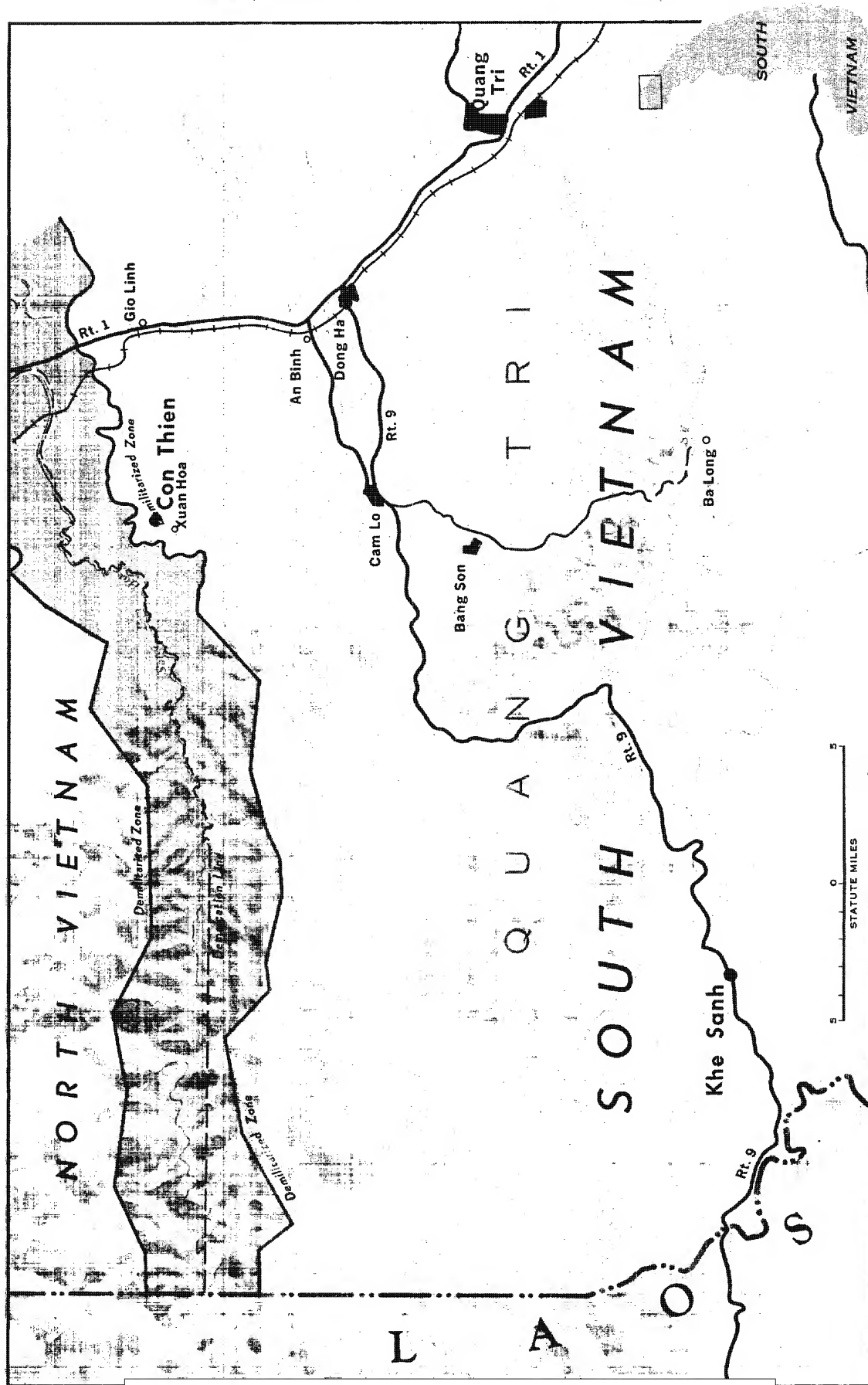
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*South Vietnam: Nearly 300 rounds of artillery and mortar fire fell on US Marine positions near Con Thien on 6 December.

During the bombardment, the heaviest in the area in over two months, a company-size North Vietnamese unit attacked a Marine outpost about two miles north-east of Con Thien. US losses in the attacks came to 13 killed and over 100 wounded. Air strikes and intense artillery barrages were directed at suspected North Vietnamese artillery positions.

The stepped-up enemy activity in the area suggests that the North Vietnamese may have decided to launch a new round of fighting around Con Thien, possibly in conjunction with attacks near Khe Sanh in western Quang Tri Province.

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